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## Editor's Corner - IAS Board Forms New Elementary Science Teaching Section

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## EDITOR'S CORNER

### IAS Board Forms New Elementary Science Teaching Section

Many Iowa science educators and I have been concerned about the limited opportunities for Iowa elementary teachers to become professionally involved in science education at the state level.

Iowa science teachers do have an organization which is not only "alive and well" but strong, and in the enviable position of being a section of the state academy of science. Although the Science Teaching Section (Q Section) of the Iowa Academy of Science has long demonstrated an interest in elementary science by such activities as the elementary orientated sessions at the fall meeting of the section, elementary membership has been limited. Major factors in this low membership have been limited services for elementary teachers and a dues structure which was not realistic for self-contained classroom teachers with many content areas in which to become involved.

For the disciplines of science and science education to grow in Iowa, growth supporting activities are essential at all academic levels from elementary through graduate school. If the foundation is not laid in elementary school and the native curiosity of children is not maintained, we obviously will not be able to achieve our Iowa potential in the sciences.

Saturday, Feb. 15, was a red letter day in solving these concerns. The Board of the Iowa Academy of Science was presented with a proposal for the formation of a new section: an elementary science teaching section. And it was approved! Elementary teachers now have their own section in which to grow. My hope is that it will grow in close conjunction with the Science Teaching Section (Q) and that a joint fall conference for both elementary and secondary science teachers will continue to benefit all. For a two-year trial period, the Board also approved a \$10 per year dues structure, which is half of the current academy dues and close to the average paid by elementary science teachers in other states.

Services for elementary teachers will be increased. The *ISTJ* has already begun featuring articles for elementary teachers (see the symbol in the table of contents) and a separate newsletter for elementary is to be produced. Members of the elementary section will not receive *The Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science*, but will receive two publications designed to meet their needs. I am most pleased and look forward to these new developments supporting growth of Iowa science at all academic levels.

— C.W.B.